

**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY
JOINT TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
AND CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
ROOM 802, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA
THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2010, 10:00 A.M.**

THOSE PRESENT:

Augusta-Richmond Co. Planning Commission

George A. Patty
Paul DeCamp
Juriah Lewis
Marya Moultrie
Lynn Russell

CAC

Don Skinner
Walter Lamb
Butch Gallop
Willie Bell
Les Morton

GA DOT

Cissy McNure
Michael Keene
Reuben Woods
Karen Quarles

Columbia County

Glen Bollinger

City of Augusta

David Griffith
Heyward Johnson

SC DOT

Doug Frate
Kenny Larimore
Mike Sullivan

City of North Augusta

Skip Grkovic

Aiken County

Gerald Jefferson
Stephen Strohming

City of Aiken

Sandra Korbelik

LSCOG

Rich Eberle

WELCOME and introductions

1. Election of CAC Officers:

a) Chairman

Mr. Morton moved to nominate Don Skinner as Chairman. Mr. Gallop seconded. Nominations were closed and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

b) Vice-Chairman

Mr. Skinner moved to nominate Les Morton as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Gallop seconded. Nominations were closed and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Consider approval of the minutes of the joint Technical Coordinating Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee meeting held on February 10, 2010.

CAC – Mr. Gallop moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2010. Mr. Morton seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

TCC - Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2010. Mr. Woods seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Consider amending the FY 2010 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to add \$1 million for a Park & Ride facility as requested by the City of North Augusta. The proposed location is at Exit 5 off Interstate 20 (see attached).

Mr. Grkovic presented this item. The million dollars was approved by the SC Policy Subcommittee in FY 2010 funding to proceed with construction of this project. This is directly related to the non attainment issues that are coming up. The recommendation is that the TCC and CAC approve this amendment and then forward to the Policy Committee for approval.

CAC – Mr. Gallop moved to recommend approval of this amendment to the TIP. Mr. Morton seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

TCC – Mrs. Korbely moved to recommend approval of this amendment to the TIP. Mr. Grkovic seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Consider amending the FY 2010 UPWP to include carry over funds from FY 2009 for the Northside Road Network Study, as requested by the City of Aiken. The total budget for the study is \$150,000 (80/20 match using Federal PL funds).

Mrs. Korbely presented this item. This amendment is needed just in case the project is not completed by the end of the fiscal year.

CAC – Mr. Bell moved to recommend approval of this amendment to the UPWP. Mr. Gallop seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

TCC – Mr. Grkovic moved to recommend approval of this amendment to the UPWP. Mr. Strohminger seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Consider recommending approval of the draft ARTS FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (see attached).

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. The summary is attached to the agenda. The first couple of pages summarize the lump sum funding for Georgia and South Carolina maintenance, bridge paving activities, followed by pages summarizing road and bridge for Aiken, Columbia and Richmond Counties, transit expenditures and ITS projects.

If it feels like we just approved this, you did. The FY 2010-13 TIP was approved last October. We are trying to get back on schedule with the draft of the FY2011-14 TIP.

The draft TIP will go out for public review and comment and the final TIP will be submitted to the TCC and CAC for approval in August.

CAC – Mr. Morton moved to recommend approval of this draft TIP. Mr. Gallop seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

TCC – Mr. Grkovic moved to recommend approval of the TIP. Mr. Woods seconded. The motion was approved unanimously

**6. Status of Projects:
(a) Georgia Highways**

Mrs. Everett was not able to attend but sent an email with the status of Georgia's projects. There are no major changes since the last update.

Project updates include:

- Columbia County - ARRA projects - bids were opened April 29. Contracts between GDOT and the county are under legal review in Atlanta. Once they are processed and returned a notice to proceed will be issued.
- Richmond County - ARRA projects - The pre-bid meeting is tomorrow with a bid opening scheduled for June 17 for the resurfacing projects.
- ARRA Project #0009610 - Broad Street Traffic Signal and Street Light Upgrades from SR 28 to SR 4 - the let date is May 21. Construction funds have been authorized. Six bids were received. The low bid was \$2,689,348
- Windsor Spring Road, Phase IV (PI# 250610) - the revised environmental document was approved on May 13. A request to authorize ROW funds was submitted on May 14.

Mr. Morton asked about the eastbound on-ramp to I-520 from Wheeler Road. The striping and signs indicate the traffic should merge from right to left, but the road lane looks like the left lane ends and should be merging to the right.

Mr. Keene explained it is correct on the ground.

(b) South Carolina Highways

There was no one available to present this item.

(c) Augusta Public Transit

Mr. Johnson presented this item. Mr. Johnson is back from an extended medical leave. The ARRA funds were received for capital purchases. Three new vehicles have been order for the fixed route service. These vehicles should be ready by September. An FTA grant is being pursued to purchase three more vehicles. Prices for buses have gone up to \$400,000 each. The Public Service Commission approved eleven more fare boxes. This will complete the modernization of the buses.

A public information meeting is scheduled for June 3 from 5 - 7 on the elimination of Route 15 - Medical Complex. The Transit Development Plan calls for the elimination of this route. The full Commission will make the final decision to eliminate the route.

(d) Aiken County Transit

Mr. Rich Eberle presented this item. Currently the LSCOG is completing the procurement process to continue operating the Dial-A-Ride service. Negotiations are ongoing with Aiken Transit. Kudos to Sandra Korbelik for helping get bus shelters in the city of Aiken. Phase I - three shelters will be installed for the Best Friend's Express. There is a grant available that requires a 20% match that will be applied for to install more shelters throughout the city as soon as the City approves the locations. Two buses were delivered last week are being prepared for use with signage and automatic vehicle locator hardware. All the buses will have the AVL installed. The LSCOG expansion is almost complete. The expansion will house the Aging, Disability and Transportation Resources Center. The grand opening is scheduled for August 17th.

7. Update on Special Studies Projects:

(a) ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Moultrie presented this item. We are continuing to move forward on the 2035 LRTP with the consultant Wilbur Smith and Associates. The goals and objectives have been identified and the data collection and analysis has been completed. We are in the process of identifying projects. The plan is to have a draft completed in June so a public information meeting can be held in July. There has been some concern from Aiken officials on how the model reflects socio economic data. All these concerns have been addressed.

(b) Special Studies in Aiken County

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. The US 1 / US 78 study contract has been awarded to Wilbur Smith and Associates. This will be an 18-month project that will cover US 1 / US 78 from the Savannah River to Hitchcock Parkway in Aiken. We will be looking at the corridor because all the economic development along the corridor in the last ten years warrants the study. Traffic on the thoroughfare is increasing so we want to look at the function of the roadway and land use along the corridor. Bike and pedestrian facilities will also be addressed as part of the study.

Wilbur Smith is the consultant for the county travel demand model study. All the economic data has been submitted and the model has been run. The 95-page document will be ready to review during the same time as the Long Range Transportation Plan update is put out for public review in June and July.

Mrs. Korbely presented the North Side Road study. Some of the TAZs have been split and the economic data is being reviewed. The update to the UPWP was to make sure the timeline is continuous and there will be no problems with consultant obligations.

8. Update on Air Quality Initiatives

(a) Aiken County

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. The Park and Ride Facility has already been discussed. Local officials met to discuss the issues we face with the non attainment designation. The purpose of the meeting was to discern the parties responsible for transportation conformity, the transportation conformity process and the transportation planning process, who will be involved and what tools will be needed to address these issues.

EPA is proposing to strengthen the 8-hour "primary" ozone standard and to establish a seasonal "secondary" standard for ground level ozone. Public meetings were held February 2 and 4, 2010 in Virginia, Texas and California. EPA accepted comments for 60 days following these meetings. Final standards will be issued by August 31, 2010. The States will make recommendations for areas to be designated by January 2011. EPA will make final area designations by July 2011 and the designations will become effective by August 2011. State Implementation Plans outlining how states will reduce pollution to meet the standards are due to EPA by December 2013. States are required to meet the primary standard with deadlines depending on the severity of the problem.

(b) Richmond County

Ms. Moultrie presented this item. The CSRA Air Quality Alliance website continues to be updated as needed. The Air Quality Initiatives Update for the ARTS study area has been posted to the website. So far, no comments or additions have been received. Additionally, information from the Clean Air Campaign is being distributed through the website, the ARTS newsletter, and through the email distribution list.

9. Overview of Georgia 2020 Transportation Act

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. The Georgia Legislature in the last session passed House Bill 277 which is the Transportation Investment Act of 2010. This sets up twelve sales and use tax districts across the state comparable to the South Carolina COGs. In these districts, a process is established to set up a roundtable of elected officials that can establish a list of transportation projects and have the votes in each of the districts to vote on a 1-cent sales tax to fund these projects. This adds a funding mechanism to what is already in place - local, state and federal dollars that go to transportation improvement projects.

This tax is voted on regionally. The actual vote cannot occur until the primaries in the year 2012. Between now and then the regional roundtables will be established and they will go through a process, in conjunction with the State DOT and other stakeholders, of establishing a list of projects for voters to consider. This is not mandatory that a vote take place in all these districts. The State provides more of the matching funds in areas where a positive vote has occurred. If you are in a district that does not approve the penny sales tax, then your matching requirement for transportation projects will be higher. If the sales tax is approved it is in place for ten years and can be renewed at the end of the period. Twenty-five percent of the tax proceeds will be designated for discretionary use by the local governments within the district.

10. Issues and Concerns

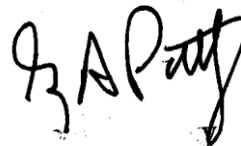
(a) Prior -

There were no prior issues or concerns to address.

(b) Current / New -

Mr. Johnson stated going west on I-20 to Bobby Jones there are signs for the Daniel Field Airport and not the Augusta Regional Airport. Signs are erected based on distance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



George Patty
Project Director